

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising two opposed combs, each of said combs having a spine defining the width of the comb and comb teeth projecting from said spine, and a stretchable elastic mesh secured between the spines of said combs to produce tension between said combs when said combs are moved away from each other, said elastic mesh having a width comparable to the width of said combs and being formed by elastic strands extending between the spines of the combs so as to form stretchable openings which can individually be stretched open so that an amount of the wearer's hair can be pulled therethrough therethrough, and wherein the elastic strands are capable of being threadedly beaded to provide a decorative elastic mesh.

2. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein said opposed combs are wire combs comprised of a metal spine and a row of looped wires attached to and projecting from said metal spine to form the teeth of the combs.

3. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein said elastic strands are secured at spaced intervals to the spines of said opposed combs.

4. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein said elastic strands are interconnected and form an elastic mesh formed at least in part by generally triangular shaped stretchable openings.

5. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 4 wherein the stretchable openings of said elastic mesh are of at least two different sizes.

6. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein said elastic mesh is formed by interconnected elastic strands.

7. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein said strands are substantially clear elastic strands.

8. (Previously presented) The stretch comb retainer of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the elastic strands of said elastic mesh are beaded to provide a decorative elastic mesh.

9. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 8 wherein the beaded elastic strands include connector beads interconnecting said elastic strands to form a woven elastic mesh.

10. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 9 wherein the beaded elastic strands include intermediate beads on said elastic strands between said connector beads.

11. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 10 wherein the number of intermediate beads between each of the connector beads of said elastic mesh is substantially the same.

12. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein the length of the elastic mesh between said combs, when unstretched, is between about three and one-half to four inches.

13. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein the width of said combs is between about three to four inches.

14. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 1 wherein the width of said combs and said elastic mesh is between about three to four inches.

15. (Currently amended) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising two opposed combs, each of said combs having a spine defining the width of the comb and comb teeth projecting from the spine,

elastic strands secured at spaced intervals along the spines of the combs, and a plurality of connector beads,

said elastic strands being ~~woven~~ threaded through said connector beads to form an woven elastic mesh between the spines of said opposed combs which produces tension between said combs when said combs are moved away from each other, said elastic mesh having stretchable openings which can individually be stretched open so that the wearer can pull an amount of hair therethrough if desired, and having a width comparable to the width of said combs.

16. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 15 wherein said elastic strands are formed by at least one continuous length of elastic strand wrapped around the spines of said combs to produce strand segments that are threaded through said connector beads.

17. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 15 wherein intermediate beads are threaded onto said elastic strands between said connector beads to produce a desired decorative effect.

18. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 17 wherein the shapes, colors, and sizes of said connector and intermediate beads are selected and mixed to produce a desired decorative effect.

19. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 17 wherein the intermediate beads surrounding said connector beads are larger than other intermediate beads to accentuate the interconnections of the woven elastic mesh.

20. (Currently amended) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 15 wherein said opposed combs are wire combs comprised of a metal spine and a row of looped wires attached to and projecting from said metal spine to form the teeth of the combs.

21. (Currently amended) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising two opposed combs, each of said combs having a spine and wire loop comb teeth projecting from the spine, and each of said combs having a width of about three to four inches; and

an elastic mesh connected between the spines of said opposed combs, said elastic mesh having stretchable openings formed by elastic strands woven between the spines of said combs which can individually be stretched open so that the wearer can pull an amount of hair through one or more of said openings if desired, said elastic mesh further having an unstretched length as measured between the spines of said combs of between about three and one-half to four inches, and having a width which is about the same as said combs, said elastic strands being threadably beaded as they are woven between the spines of the combs.

22. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 21 wherein eight elastic stands are secured at spaced intervals along the spines of said opposed combs and are interconnected to form the elastic mesh between said combs.

23. (Currently amended) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising two opposed combs, each of said combs having a spine and comb teeth projecting from the spine, a beaded elastic mesh having stretchable openings which can individually be stretched open so that an amount of the wearer's hair can be pulled therethrough, said stretchable openings being attached to and extending between the spines of said opposed combs,

said elastic mesh being formed by threading and simultaneously threadedly beading at least one elastic strand back and forth between the spines of said combs.

24. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 23 wherein said elastic strand is beaded with connector beads, wherein the elastic strand is threaded through said connector beads, and wherein said connector beads interconnect the filament strand in an elastic mesh with stretchable openings.

25. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 24 wherein said elastic strand is threaded back and forth between the spines of said first and second combs to produce eight strand segments woven through said connector beads.

26. (Previously presented) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising first and second opposed combs, each of said combs having a spine and parallel comb teeth projecting from the spine;  
a beaded elastic mesh having stretchable openings attached to and extending between the spines of said opposed combs,  
said beaded elastic mesh being formed by the steps comprising:  
securing one end of at least one elastic strand to the end of the spine of said first comb,

threading a selected number of beads, including connector beads, onto said elastic strand to create a first beaded elastic strand segment of a desired length,

securing the free end of the first elastic strand segment to the spine of said second comb to fix this end of the first elastic strand segment in opposition to the end secured to the spine of the first comb,

running the free end of the elastic strand down the spine of said second comb to a position on said spine where the elastic strand takes off from the spine of said comb in a second elastic strand segment, and securing the elastic strand at such position,

threading the elastic strand back toward the first comb through the connector beads on the first elastic strand segment to form a second elastic strand segment of the elastic mesh, and while doing so beading said second elastic strand with a selected number of beads and with further connector beads for the next elastic strand segment,

wrapping the free end of the elastic strand around the spine of said first comb to fix the second end of said second elastic segment in opposition to its first end,

running the free end of the elastic strand down the spine of said first comb to a position on said spine where the strand takes off from the spine of said first comb in a third elastic strand segment and fixing the elastic strand at such position,

continuing this threading and beading process until the last beaded elastic strand segment is complete, and

securing the free end of the last elastic strand segment to the spine of the comb

receiving such free end.

27. (Previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 26 wherein the number of connector beads alternates between three connector beads and two connector beads, three for the first strand segment, two connector beads for the second strand segment, et cetera.

28. (previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 26 wherein said filament strand is threaded back and forth between the spines of said first and second combs to produce eight strand segments interwoven through said connector beads.

29. (currently amended) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising  
two opposed wire combs, each of said combs having a metal spine ~~defining the width of the comb~~ and a row of looped wires attached to and projecting from said metal spine to form parallel projecting teeth of the comb; and  
a plurality of elastic strands extending between and secured at spaced intervals along the spines of said wire combs, said elastic strands forming stretchable openings between the spines of said opposed wire combs which can individually be stretched open so that the wearer can pull ~~an~~ a desired amount of the wearer's hair

therethrough therethrough, and having a width comparable to the width of said combs.

30. (previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 29 wherein the width of said combs is between about three to four inches.

31. (previously presented) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 30 wherein the distance between the spines of said combs, when the elastic strands are unstretched, is between about three and one-half to four inches.

32. (new) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising  
two opposed wire combs, each of said combs having a metal spine defining the width of the comb and a row of looped wires attached to and projecting from said metal spine to form parallel projecting teeth of the comb; and  
a plurality of elastic strands extending between and secured at spaced intervals along the spines of said wire combs, said elastic strands being strung between the metal spines of said opposed combs so as to form stretchable openings between said elastic strands through which an amount of the wearer's hair can be pulled.

33. (new) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 32 wherein said elastic strands are strung between the spines of said wire combs to form a crisscross pattern of elastic strands.

34. (new) The stretch comb hair retainer of claim 32 wherein said elastic strands are threadedly beaded as they are strung back and forth between the spines of said wire combs.

35 (new) A stretch comb hair retainer comprising  
two opposed wire combs, each of said combs having a spine defining the width of the comb and a row of looped metal wires attached to and projecting from said spine to form parallel projecting teeth of the comb, said looped metal wires being attached to said spine by twisting to form twisted bases at the spine; and  
a plurality of elastic strands strung between the spines of said wire combs so that they secure to the spine of said combs at spaced intervals over the width of the comb, said strands being threadedly beaded as they are strung between the spines of said wire combs.